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Insight

Gasohol tab an obstacle to its use

By Debbie Kelley
Missourian staff writer

Despite the sharp rise in the price of gasoline, the even faster-rising price of grain alcohol remains a big obstacle to the mass-marketing of gasohol as a substitute.

MFA Oil Co. sources in Columbia and Farmland Industries sources in Kansas City, Mo., said, due to the price of ethanol, gasohol is not a competitively priced alternative to gasoline.

For example, at Fred Lewis' MFA station, last Feb. 20, gasohol sold for 76.9 cents a gallon (3.8 liters) and unleaded gasoline sold for 70.9 cents a gallon (3.8 liters). At the same station Thursday, gasohol cost \$1.16 a gallon (3.8 liters), and unleaded gasoline was \$1.05 a gallon (3.8 liters).

Thus, in the last six months, the spread between the retail price of gasohol and regular gasoline has gotten wider. In February, gasohol cost 6 cents more a gallon (3.8 liters) than unleaded gasoline. Gasohol now costs 11 cents more a gallon (3.8 liters) than gasoline.

However, Walter Straight, MFA Oil Co.'s regional sales manager in Columbia, said, "We are as optimistic as we ever were," about marketing gasohol. "We've just got to find a cheaper way to produce ethanol," he said.

Ethanol cost MFA \$1.49 per gallon last Feb. 14 and rose to \$1.62 a gallon (3.8 liters) Wednesday, plus freight charges and taxes. Gasohol usually is made of one-tenth of a gallon (.38 liters) of ethanol, a 200 proof alcohol, and nine-tenths of a gallon (3.42 liters) of unleaded gasoline.

"Gasohol sales could become 30 percent of our sales volume," in the six MFA stations now selling gasohol, Straight said. But he said the price must be competitive with unleaded gasoline. He said the amount MFA will expand gasohol marketing depends on the price and supply of ethanol.

Ray Young, president of MFA Oil Co., said that although the company has no definite plan of action, MFA plans to expand its gasohol market in the next two months.

Bob Junck, Farmland's vice president of research, said Farmland began marketing ethanol to its member co-operatives Aug. 1, along with a handbook on mixing and handling gasohol safely.

Junck said marketing gasohol is "in the study phase of production" at Farmland, and researchers are investigating ways to distill ethanol more cheaply.

George Statham, vice president of marketing in Farmland's petroleum division, said Farmland has sold several thousand gallons of ethanol to member co-ops and said Farmland would consider distilling ethanol itself "if it ever becomes economically feasible."

Farmland buys ethanol from the Archer Daniels Midland Co. and from Midwest Solvents, Atchison, Kan.

Neither MFA nor Farmland plans distilleries of their own. Archer Daniels Midland Co. is now expanding its distilling operations from 75,000 to 150,000 gallons (285,000 to 570,000 liters) of alcohol a day to keep up with the demand for ethanol.

The public seems ready for gasohol if it could be produced and sold more cheaply.

"Ninety percent of people who returned questionnaires we distributed with gasohol sales said they would buy gasohol on a regular basis if it cost 5 cents less gallon (3.8 liters) than unleaded gas," Straight said.



Participants enjoy a lighter moment during last night's Parks and Recreation Commission hearing on the proposed mall in Cosmo Park.

Developers may need more land for mall site

By Colleen Coble,
Jill Farwell and Shawn Balthrop
Missourian staff writers

Development of a regional shopping mall could take at least 60 or 70 acres (24 to 28 hectares) of Cosmopolitan Recreation Area, a mall task force member told more than 100 discontented people in a Thursday night public hearing.

Mark Landrum told members of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the group of citizens gathered that the original 50-acre (20-hectare) site offered developers too little room for expansion. Landrum said a more reasonable estimate would be a 60- or 70-acre (24- or 28-hectare) site.

Although Landrum said the city could receive \$2.8 million from the sale of 70 acres (28 hectares), the proposal met unanimous opposition from Columbia residents at the hearing.

The Cosmopolitan site, selected over 12 other sites, was found to be easily accessible via a series of right turns from either Business Loop 70 or Stadium Boulevard.

Currently both access routes are being widened by the Missouri Highway Department and a network of stall signals is being built to accommodate heavier traffic.

Task force Chairman Bob Pugh stated earlier that a key part of the plan involves limiting the mall development to 500,000 square feet

(450 square meters). It was hoped that the sale of 60 acres (24 hectares) of the park could preserve the remaining portion of the 525-acre (210-hectare) recreation area as a park.

The original 50-acre (20-hectare) mall site included land now occupied by the park tennis courts, horse-shoe pits, three playing fields and the east-west runways of the old Columbia airport.

Portions of the Municipal Golf Course would be included in the larger mall site, he said.

Landrum said any contract should require the developer to "replicate the facilities elsewhere." He said the addition of the shopping mall to the park's existing facilities would be "an overall recreational experience greater than the sum of the park."

"I think shopping in such a mall as we are talking about here can be a family recreational experience," he said. He suggested allocating park sale revenues to develop urban park sites.

Landrum mentioned three specific projects which could be funded by the \$2.8 million in revenue. The acquisition of Stephens Park, the purchase and renovation of the Hall Theatre as a concert hall, and the Flat Branch project were suggested outlets for the funds.

Landrum's proposal's met opposition from the crowd. Walter Johnson, 303 Edgewood Ave., called the proposals "red herrings." "I had

thought that this issue came up to save the blighted Flat Branch; now I don't know where the money is going," he said.

Cosmopolitan Club President Bob Leuenberger, 506 West Boulevard S., said if the city attempts to sell the park land, "we will take steps to legally prevent it."

Representatives from the Mizzou Optimists Club, the Lion's Club, the Kiwanis Club, Columbia Arts League, Bicycle Commission, as well as the Cosmo Club, voiced opposition to the park sale.

Meanwhile three of the five developers currently eyeing Columbia as the site of a regional shopping mall have expressed official interest in the Cosmo Park site, head planner Amy Wilson of the city planning department said Thursday.

Gottlieb Corp. of Kansas City, Mo., General Growth Properties of Des Moines, Iowa, and May Stores Shopping Co. of St. Louis have all expressed official interest in the Cosmo Park site, Ms. Wilson said.

May Stores, however, has purchased an option on the 492-acre (196.8-hectare) Perry Phillips farm on U.S. 63 south of Columbia. Company spokesman Art Spellmeyer seems to think the Phillips farm, rather than Cosmo Park, will be the eventual site of the shopping center.

The commission will make its recommendations to the City Council Oct. 1.

Carter frees 4 Puerto Rican nationalists

From our wire services

WASHINGTON — President Carter granted clemency Thursday to one unrepentant Puerto Rican nationalist who attempted to assassinate President Harry S. Truman in 1950 and to three others who sprayed gunfire in the House of Representatives in 1954, and wounded five congressmen.

The commutation had been opposed by some Puerto Ricans, including Gov.

Carlos Romero Barcelo, who argued that the prisoners' unconditional release would encourage terrorism and "would constitute a menace to public safety."

The move, however, opened the way for Cuban President Fidel Castro to free four Americans, and eliminated a sore spot in U.S. relations with the Third World.

The White House said Carter decided to grant unconditional clemency to the

four Puerto Ricans after receiving a favorable recommendation from Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti.

"They have been penalized severely for their crimes, and humane considerations and sound correctional policy militate against retaining them in custody any longer," a Justice Department spokesman said.

The oldest of the nationalists, Oscar Collazo, 65, was serving a life sentence in the Leavenworth, Kan., federal

penitentiary for his role in a Nov. 1, 1950, attempt to assassinate President Truman in Blair House.

Another nationalist convicted in the attack on the House, Andres Figueroa Cordero, was freed by Carter in 1977 because he was dying of cancer. Cordero died last March in San Juan, but in the last year of his life he expressed no regrets concerning the shooting.

The others — Lolita Lebron, 59; Irving Flores-Rodriguez, 53, and Rafael

Cancel-Miranda, 49 — were serving varying terms of up to 75 years for a March 1, 1954 attack on the House of Representatives.

The four "independentistas" — unbending until the end — had refused to petition for clemency on their own behalf as demanded by previous administrations.

Today a single bullet hole remains in the ceiling of the House chamber, a reminder of the shooting.

County's federal funds to be cut

By James Pinson
and Julie Wiens
Missourian staff writers

Boone County's federal revenue-sharing funds will be cut by about \$106,500 in 1980, Boone County Presiding Judge Bill Frech announced Thursday. Northern District Judge Dick Farmer called it "a tremendous amount of money to lose when you're scraping the bottom of the barrel just to make it anyway."

The county this year received \$520,000 from the revenue-sharing program, but next year's amount will be only \$426,145 — a difference of \$93,855.

To add to the problem, the Office of Revenue Sharing overestimated Boone County's portion of revenue-sharing funds for 1979 by \$11,855, and this amount also will be deducted from next year's payments to the county.

The only reason the federal government gave for the cut in next year's funding to the county, Frech said, was a sentence in the letter from the Revenue Sharing Office announcing the cutback which said, "The change in your entitlement is due to data changes within your state."

"What data changes?" Frech asked.

"Where are the computations?"

Frech said he suspects the reason for the decrease is that property tax accounts for a declining percentage of state and local revenue.

"It's just another piece of evidence telling us that the property tax is not keeping up with inflation," he said.

Frech called it another "compelling" reason to hold a referendum which could establish a county sales tax coupled with a property tax rollback, as authorized by state legislation in July. Such a measure could increase county revenues by some \$850,000.

The court first thought the cut in funds would begin the last quarter of fiscal year 1979, and that the county would be faced in October with a loss of about \$26,400 from this year's budget.

But, because the revenue-sharing program's payment dates correspond with the county's fiscal year rather than the federal government's, the shortfall will begin in January 1980, rather than this fall.

"I guess when bad news is deferred a quarter you call it good news," Frech said, "so we do have some good news."

In other business, the court met in closed session with Boone County Prosecuting Attorney Joe Moseley, the county's legal adviser, about a land

dispute between the court and the Missouri Highway Department.

Moseley recommended the session be closed because the matter is a possible source of litigation. If the situation is not solved to the satisfaction of both the county and the state, the case could go to Boone County Circuit Court.

The dispute involves a difference in opinion about the value of 36 acres (14.4 hectares) of county land south of Prathersville, Mo.

The state wants the land for an extension of U.S. 63 and has offered \$75,200 for it. But an independent appraiser, Jack Blaylock, has told the court the property is worth \$142,750.

After the closed session, the court voted to authorize Moseley to exchange Blaylock's appraisal information with the state highway department in an effort to agree on a price.

The court also acted on several matters relating to construction at the Boone County Jail. The judges ordered a \$5,000 payment to the construction company, a payment of \$1,136.75 to the architects, a \$278 payment for welding air conditioner vent slats to prevent security problems and a \$1,377 payment for kitchen repairs and fixing leaky showers.

M.U. will limit beverages fans bring to stadium

By LaVerne Burton
Missourian staff writer

University officials plan to limit the amount of beverages — both "hard" and "soft" — that Tiger football fans bring into the stadium Saturday. And the University will be charging more for the beverages it sells inside the stadium.

Thermos bottles of no more than one quart capacity will be allowed under guidelines announced this week by Chancellor Barbara Uehling.

While the University adopted the limitation on hard drinks last year, this is the first season for limiting the size of soft-drink containers.

"The safety of our fans, especially in light of the large crowds expected this year, is our primary concern," Dr. Uehling said. "We want to eliminate the hazards of broken glass and bulky containers in rows and aisles."

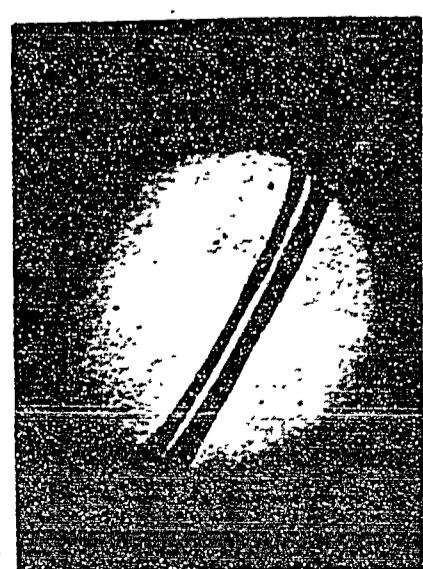
Persons attempting to enter the stadium with large containers will

be given the option of returning them to their cars or leaving them at the gate at their own risk.

Fans whose thirst is not quenched by the quart-size beverage brought in will be able to purchase a 16-ounce (440-milliliter) soft drink from stadium concessionaires for \$1 — 15 cents more than it cost last year. The small, 8-ounce (240-milliliter) size soda will cost 50 cents, same as last year.

John Rawlings, business manager of the intercollegiate athletic department, said the price increase is not an effort to overcharge the fans but a means of keeping up with increased concession costs.

Alan Anderson, assistant director of the University public information office, said one of the main concerns is controlling alcohol that slips in large containers. Alcohol found in the stadium will be, as in previous years, confiscated. Persons acting disorderly will be removed from the stadium, he said.



The Pioneer 11 spacecraft discovered a new Saturn moon named "Pioneer Rock" during its weekend flyby past the planet. Page 12.

Inside today

Football weekends

The game is only the most visible part of a football weekend. Picnics, parties and other pre- and post-game activities also are important rites of fall as young and old alike jump aboard the Tiger handwagon. See Weekend, Page 1B.

In town today

8:30 a.m. University Board of Curators Physical Facilities Committee meets in S-16 of the Memorial Union.

1:45 p.m. Board of Curators to meet in Memorial Union Alumni Lounge. Non-public executive session begins at 10:30 a.m.

8 p.m. Football — Hickman High School vs. Hazelwood Central, at Hickman High field.

Free campus parking may be cut

By Rhonda Stearley
Missourian staff writer

The number of free parking spaces for University students would be reduced under a plan proposed by the Special Downtown Business District Commission.

Mark Landrum, chairman of the commission, said he'd like the city to expand its meter base around campus. "There are a lot of free spaces close to campus that are taken up by weekly parkers," he said.

A 1973 report showed there were 902 free parking spaces in the immediate campus area. Although city and University officials said changes had been made since then, none could give an accurate count of the free parking spots near the campus now.

If the available free spots were cleared of long-term parkers and available to students driving to the

campus daily, Landrum said, that would open additional metered parking near the downtown area for "traditional" shoppers.

"We wouldn't want to do anything to hurt the University," Landrum said. "But the parking problem there affects downtown parking. The problems cannot be separated."

"The city and the University should bounce ideas back and forth on the parking situation here," Landrum said.

Coordination with the University on Columbia's downtown parking dilemma is part of an overall plan the nine-member commission has formulated to create possible parking alternatives for the area.

"This is the time to coordinate our activities with the University, and I hope to begin some more active participation over the next few months," Landrum said.

Ken Groshong, executive assistant of

the University's business operations office, said he had met with Landrum for preliminary discussion. However, he said the University had no immediate plans to shift to more metered spaces.

"Our main complaint is about the availability of parking, not the costs," Landrum said. "Downtown merchants receive frequent complaints from customers about the shortage of spaces."

But while downtown merchants don't want students taking up spaces, they don't want them to get too far away either, Landrum said. The commission hopes to expand downtown parking facilities in order to better accommodate traditional shoppers as well as students who are out shopping.

One thing that bothers Landrum about the University's free shuttle bus system is that it encourages the students to park near the Hearnes

Center area, far south of both the campus and the downtown area. He worries that when these students go home from classes they will not think of coming downtown to shop.

Groshong also worries about the shuttle service for another reason... its cost. He said the shuttle service costs the University about \$60,000 to run during the nine-month school year. Funding for the service comes from fees paid by faculty, staff and students using the paid parking lots on campus. "At some point in time, other funding arrangements will have to be made," he said.

If the commission succeeds in having its parking proposals approved by the City Council, Landrum said expanded downtown parking facilities would be beneficial to students in the long run. "Knowing human nature, students won't mind paying for the convenience of being close to campus."